LAST DAYS OF LOKI®

AGENT OF ASGARD

SECRET WARS

MARVEL

016

EWING
GARBETT
FABELA

LOKI IS THE GODDESS OF STORIES.

HER BEST FRIEND IS VERITY WILLIS, A MORTAL WHO CAN SEE THROUGH ALL LIES AND ILLUSIONS. LOKI'S KILLED HER BODY AND STOLEN HER SOUL. DON'T WORRY, SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING.

HER WORST ENEMY IS KING LOKI, A LOKI FROM A NOW-DEFUNCT FUTURE WHO TRIED TO BRING THAT FUTURE ABOUT SOONER AND FAILED. KING LOKI THINKS LOKI'S DEAD.

MEANWHILE, THE OMNIVERSE IS ENDING. KING LOKI – TEAMING UP WITH HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH, AND TYR, GOD OF WAR AND GENERAL OF HEL – WANTS TO PROLONG HIS EXISTENCE BY DESTROYING MIDGARD, THUS PREVENTING IT FROM CRASHING INTO ANOTHER MIDGARD. (LONG STORY.) THIS MEANS DESTROYING ASGARDIA AS WELL. THE ASGARDIANS AREN'T HAPPY WITH THE ARRANGEMENT.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE BATTLE, FREYJA SACRIFICED HER LIFE TO DESTROY JORMUNGANDR, THE WORLD-SERPENT, AND ODIN BLEW THE FABLED GJALLARHORN – THE HORN OF HEROES.

THERE'S ALWAYS A CON GOING ON SOMEWHERE. WATCH CLOSELY. NOTHING UP OUR SLEEVES.

AND THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.

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Then came Volstagg's end,
he of gut and girth,
The proud lion of Asgard,
third of three warriors--
Impaled on spears-point
by Ogarr the Troll-Prince.

For his deed of death
the lion roared once more,
Hurling his blade
to cleave the troll's heart.

Then brave Volstagg fell,
let go his last breath--

--and woke anew--

--in Valhalla's hall.

MY--MY COMRADES! WARRIORS OF YEARS GONE BY!

EINAR LONE-RIDER! HERCHA STRONG-OF-ARM! BILL, SON OF BILL!

AND FANDRAL THE DASHING!

WELL MET, VOLUMINOUS ONE.

HOW GOES THE BATTLE? ARE WE TO SEE MORE WARRIORS GRACE THESE PROUD HALLS?

I FEAR SO, BROTHER.

IT SEEMS THE BRAVE OF ASGARD WILL SPEND THEIR LAST MOMENTS HERE--FEASTING AS THE WORLD ENDS.

'TIS ENOUGH--♪GRONFF♪--TO PUT EVEN NOBLE VOLSTAGG--♪MUNCH♪--OFF HIS FOOD--

THEN I BRING GOOD NEWS, O LION OF ASGARD.

ALL-MOTHER FREYJA--?

AYE. DID I NOT FALL AS YOU DID? THINK YOUR QUEEN TOO HIGH AND MIGHTY TO FEAST WITH HER HEROES IN DEATH'S HALL?

BUT NOW THE FEAST IS OVER--FOR ODIN HAS BLOWN THE GJALLARHORN, TO SUMMON ALL ASGARD'S HEROES TO FINAL BATTLE.

DOORS OF VALHALLA!

THE END IS COME! THE HORN IS SOUNDED!

THE TWIN THRONES OF ASGARD STAND WITHIN AND WITHOUT--AND TOGETHER--

--WE BID THEE OPEN!

THEN--THEN 'TIS TRULY RAGNAROK--

AYE, BRYNJAR LONG-TOOTH.

A NEW RAGNAROK.

AND SEE-- BEYOND THE GATES--

LORELEI, THE SORCERESS-- AND SIGURD, THE FIRST HERO!

AYE. AND WE STAND WITH ASGARD.

DESPITE ASGARD NEVER STANDING WITH US.

YEAH. YOU AND ODIN WERE TOTAL JERKS, QUEEN FREYJA.

BUT THE OTHER JERKS ARE WORSE, SO...WE OFFER FORGIVENESS. AND OUR AID.

GLAD I AM OF IT, FIRST HERO.

WE ALSO BRING TOKENS OF FEALTY, FROM OUR LONG SOJOURN ON MIDGARD.

THE MORTALS BELIEVE THESE, WHEN WORN, CONFER THE HEROIC MAGIC KNOWN AS...

"COOL."

I SEE.

WELL THEN, HEROES...

...LET US RIDE.

While, upon Midgard
the death of all neared--

WHAT THE HELL

--and Verity Willis
who through all falsehood saw
Spoke ire unto Loki
the Goddess of Stories.

IS WRONG WITH YOU?

I'M--I'M A GHOST IN A MAGIC BRACELET NOW?

WELL... SORT OF.

SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME.

IT SEEMED LIKE A--LOKI! MY PHYSICAL BODY'S DEAD ON THE FLOOR!

ONLY TECHNICALLY--

NO! NOT "TECHNICALLY"! YOU KILLED ME AND THEN YOU STOLE MY SOUL!

WHY-- WHY WOULD YOU EVEN DO THAT? WHAT SORT OF TWISTED REASONING WOULD MAKE YOU--

BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS! OKAY?

BECAUSE YOU HAD FAITH IN ME WHEN NOBODY ELSE DID! AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU! I DON'T WANT TO WATCH YOU BLOW UP!

IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?

...

YOU DO REMEMBER.

VERITY...

...THERE'S A NEW CHAPTER STARTING, AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE WHO I *WAS.* I WON'T ASK *YOU* TO BE, EITHER.

BUT I'M STILL *ME.* I'M *ALWAYS* ME.

YOU CAN TAKE THAT HOW YOU *LIKE*-- SEE ME HOW YOU WANT TO. I CAN'T *CONTROL* THAT.

BUT I COULD USE A FRIEND.

ARE WE GOOD?

...ALL RIGHT.

BUT I'VE GOT TO ASK-- WHAT'S WITH THESE *MEMORY PROBLEMS?*

DUNNO. I CAN'T REMEMBER.

COULD BE A SIDE EFFECT OF EIGHT MONTHS IN THE *VOID*... OR...

...OR MAYBE IT'S *CAMOUFLAGE.*

IF I HAD AN *ENEMY* I DIDN'T WANT *SEEING* ME-- SOMEONE OUT THERE WITH MY *SKILL SET.*

SOMEONE WHO KNEW MY *STORY* LIKE THEY KNEW THEIR *OWN*...

...

OH, NO.

OH, YES!

THE LATE, GREAT FREYJA'S *STAFF!* SCEPTRE OF ASGARD AND SYMBOL OF ITS *RULE!*

AND A MOST *FITTING* WEAPON--FOR *KING LOKI!*

--make war with Odin, Father of All.

YOU *DARE?*

SHOW *RESPECT,* CUR! SHE WAS THY *QUEEN!* THINE OWN *MOTHER!*

On Asgardia's shore, as final battle raged for the fate of worlds-- then did the second Loki, coward and lie-smith, king of no future--

A MOTHER WHO PREFERRED HER EVERY *OTHER* CHILD TO *ME!*

QUEEN OF A REALM THAT THOUGHT ME *DUNG* UNDER THEIR BOOTS!

WELL, NOW THE STAFF OF OFFICE IS *MINE,* ONE-EYE! REMADE TO MY *LIKING--*

--TO TAKE MY VENGEANCE ON YOU ALL!

FWOOMM

AARRGGHH--

NO--

SHRAAKK

Yawned wide the grave for Sif and Grim Hogun.

And Tyr, God of War in service of Hela Goddess of death urged their men forward.

ODIN'S POWER IS GREAT--BUT HE CANNOT DEFEND AGAINST US ALL!

IF WE BUT DESTROY MIDGARD--A UNIVERSE LIVES!

IT SEEMS... WE ARE THE LAST...

COME, THEN! WHO AMONG YOU DARES?

WHO DARES TAKE THE LIFE OF ODIN BORSON?

None there could answer the All-King's roar of rage--

Save prideful King Loki.

LET ME OBLIGE YOU, ODIN! BY PUTTING MY STAFF THROUGH YOUR FLABBY--

WHAT STAFF?

I DON'T SEE A STAFF.

W-WHAT? HOW... HOW DID YOU...?

I SAW YOU DIE...

Would you know more?

OOH! YOU MEAN *THIS* STAFF! YOU SHOULD'VE *SAID.*

AND WHAT *YOU* SAW WAS A *METAPHOR.* WHAT YOU *SAW* WAS ME TAKING YOUR CRAP FUTURE AND *SMASHING* IT.

AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO *DO* THAT MUCH.

YOU'LL BE FINE. YOU'RE A *GHOST,* REMEMBER?

UM... LOKI? THIS MIGHT BE A *TOUGH CROWD...*

ANYWAY--I'M *GODDESS OF STORIES* NOW.

THE *MOON-QUEEN.* THE *MAGIC THEATRE.* IT'S DEFINITELY AN *UPGRADE.*

BUT I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING *YOU* CAN'T DO, AM I? IF YOU *LET* YOURSELF, I MEAN.

SO WHAT'S THE BIG *CHANGE?* WHAT'S THE *ONE THING* THAT MEANS I'LL *NEVER* BE *YOU?*

GO ON, "KING LOKI."

ANSWER MY *RIDDLE.*

NOTHING!

NOTHING'S CHANGED, CARPET STAIN! NOTHING THAT MATTERS!

THEY'LL ALWAYS HATE YOU! YOU CAN CHANGE HOWEVER THEY WANT AND IT'LL NEVER BE ENOUGH!

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THE LIAR! THE TRICKSTER! THE VILLAIN!

NEVER ACCEPTED!

NEVER WANTED!

NEVER--

IF YOU SAY SO.

SO I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T CARE WHAT THEY THINK, THEN, SHOULD I?

I MEAN, "KING LOKI"? COME ON. WHO WANTS TO BE KING?

I'M DONE WITH THAT.

--IT'S NOT ABOUT THAT.

I DON'T WANT TO BE LOVED--

UM...

NO MORE EGO GAMES. NO MORE JEALOUSY GAMES AND REVENGE GAMES AND "MAKE ME KING" GAMES.

I DON'T NEED THE WHOLE OF ASGARD TO LOVE ME--

NO-- THAT'S NOT--

RRRRRGGH--

HEY!

EEP!

FZAMM

IT'S NOT HER FAULT--

AND YOU! YOU DON'T GET A HAPPY ENDING!

I WON'T LET YOU!

I WON!

FZAK

I WON AND YOU DIED! AND THAT WAS THE END! THAT WAS--

--THE--

BUT WE ARE THE GODS, LOKI.

AND THE END IS WHAT WE MAKE IT.

Loud was the roar of Gjallarhorn!
Loud it echoed o'er ten great realms!

To bring new life to the valorous dead!

Karnilla there came,
Norn-Queen, demon-ruler,
Keeper of magics,
Jotunheim's foe.

Came the proud Vanir,
Idunn their leader--
Idunn the ever-young,
Idunn the fearless.

Came heroes then,
to answer the call--
Beta Ray Bill,
hammer in hand,
Born of the stars,
yet Odinson's kin.

HELLO, MUM.

no.

At such brave sights
Coward-King Loki--

no.

--fled--

--to a far place.

no, no, no...

Would you know more?

AYE, KING OF ALL LIARS.

THOU HAD BETTER RUN.

HA!

AND IN PLACE OF THAT STUNTED GROWTH-- BEHOLD!

WHO...?

OUR TRUE CHILD!

ADVANCED TO FULL MEASURE AND STATION-- AS ODIN ALL-WISE KNEW HE WOULD FROM THE VERY--

PFFT.

ODIN ANY-WISE WOULD BE A BLESSING.

AND I'LL CELEBRATE WHEN I KNOW IF THIS TRICKSTER IS FRIEND OR FOE.

WELL, LOKI? WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON THIS TIME?

...

I DON'T DO SIDES.

MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

JOIN US.

BE SILENT, HELA--

'TIS A SIMPLE EQUATION, GOD OF TALES.

IF MIDGARD DIES...ALL THAT IS WILL LIVE ANOTHER DAY.

JOIN US.

A DAY, DEATH-GODDESS? YOU THINK YOUR GENOCIDE WILL EVEN BUY AN HOUR?

WOULD IT WERE SO. BUT... THE MULTIVERSE HAS GROWN SMALL AND WEAK.

WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW, THE FLAME OF BEING CAN ONLY FLICKER AND DIE.

BUT HOW WE DIE HAS ALL THE MEANING OF HOW WE LIVE!

AND ASGARD WILL NOT DIE SO COWARDS MAY CLUTCH AT THEIR STRAWS!

MY SON THOR IS LOST-- BUT LOKI HAS RISEN TO BECOME HIS EQUAL AT LAST! AND HE WILL STAND WITH US--

YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

I'M NOT PLAYING ANYMORE.

THE ANSWER'S NO.

LOKI--

I MEAN IT. YOU LOT...YOU DO YOU.

ALL OF YOU. DO WHAT YOU DO.

SLAY YOUR ENEMIES.

AND ALL YOU DESIRE WILL BE YOURS.

WELL, THEN.

SHALL WE?

Hela raised her swords and the hour came, hour of Midgard's end.

Hour of **last battle.**

Mighty the blows!
Steel rang on steel
as the swords of the Aesir
took their blood-price.

And Hela's legions
gave their full measure;
twice-death they brought
to Valhalla's heroes--

Until the sky-fire
stole Midgard and her twin,
burned both...

...and ended **all.**

All save this telling.

All save the teller--

--he who is Moon-King, Trickster, wanderer, free and unfettered...

...Loki his name.

Would you know more?

ACTUALLY...

...YES, I WOULD.

ODIN SAID IT BEST. HOW THE GODS DIED TELLS HOW THEY LIVED.

AND NOW I'VE GOT THEIR STORIES--THEIR ESSENCES--NICE AND SAFE. LIKE I SAVED YOU--BIGGER SCALE, THAT'S ALL.

NO SIDES. EVERYONE GETS WHAT THEY WANTED.

SO... NOW WHAT?

I DUNNO. BEEN A LONG DAY.

I COULD LET THEM *OUT* SOMEWHERE, IF THERE WAS A WHERE TO LET THEM OUT *IN*...

...BUT "*EVERYTHING DIES*," ALAS. NO WHERES I KNOW OF.

LUCKY WE GOT *OUTSIDE* IT ALL, REALLY.

OH, GOD.

EVERYTHING.

IT'S JUST-- JUST *HIT* ME--

MOM AND *DAD--R-RON--* TRACY AT THE *MARKETING* FIRM, *THUH-* THEY'RE--

--THEY'RE, THEY'RE *ALL--*

THUH-- THEY-- I--

I CAN'T, I CAN'T GET MY *BREATH--*

I'M *SORRY*, VERITY. I WISH I COULD'VE DONE *MORE*.

STILL, IF IT'S ANY *HELP*...

YOU.

SMALL GOD.

KNOW US.

...WE'LL PROBABLY SEE THEM ALL *SOON.*

WOULD YOU KNOW MORE?

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ZONE